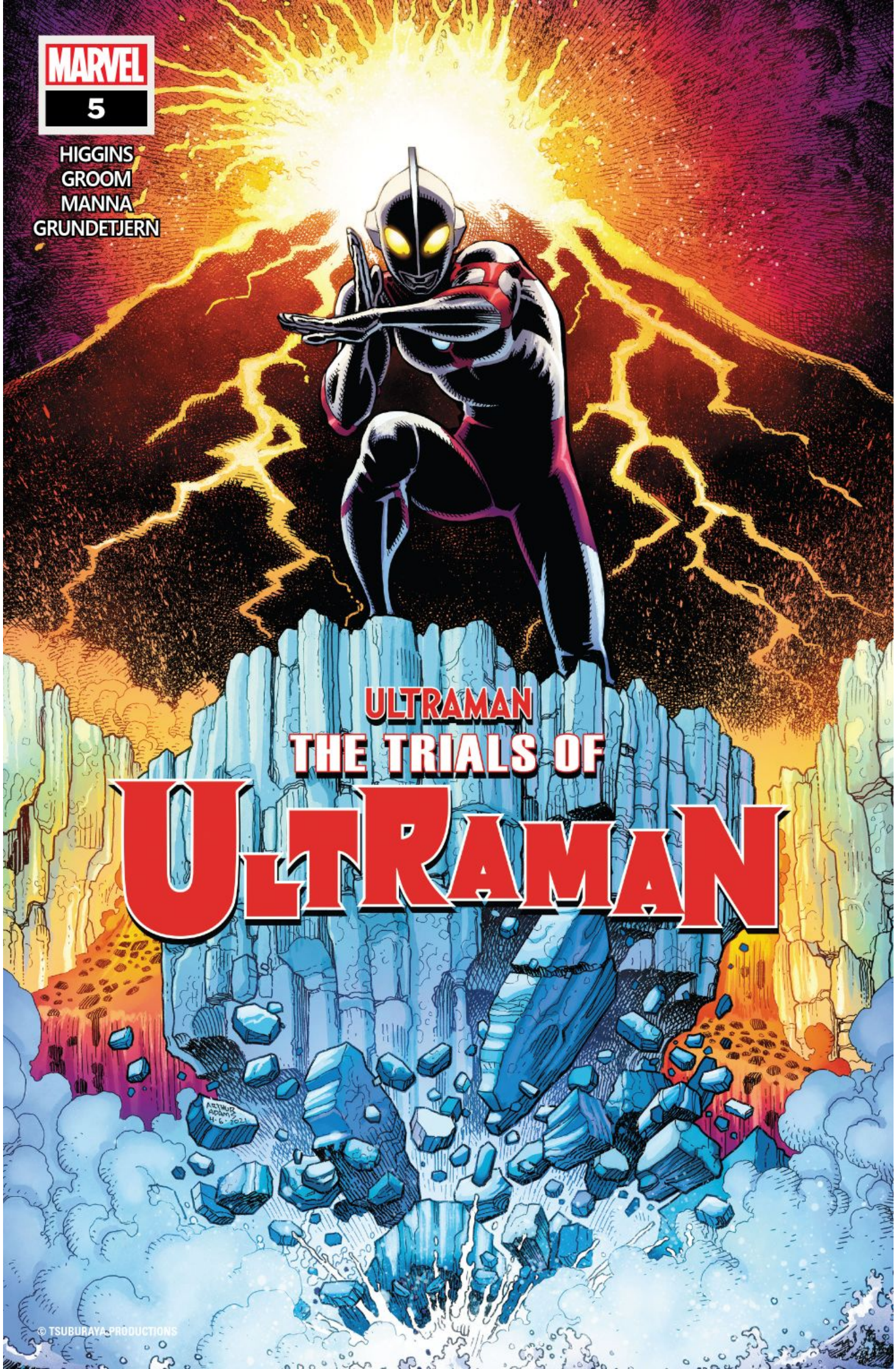
MARVEL
5
HIGGINS
GROOM
MANNA
GRUNDETJERN
ULTRAMAN
THE TRIALS OF
ULTRAMAN
ARTHUR ADAMS
4-6-2021
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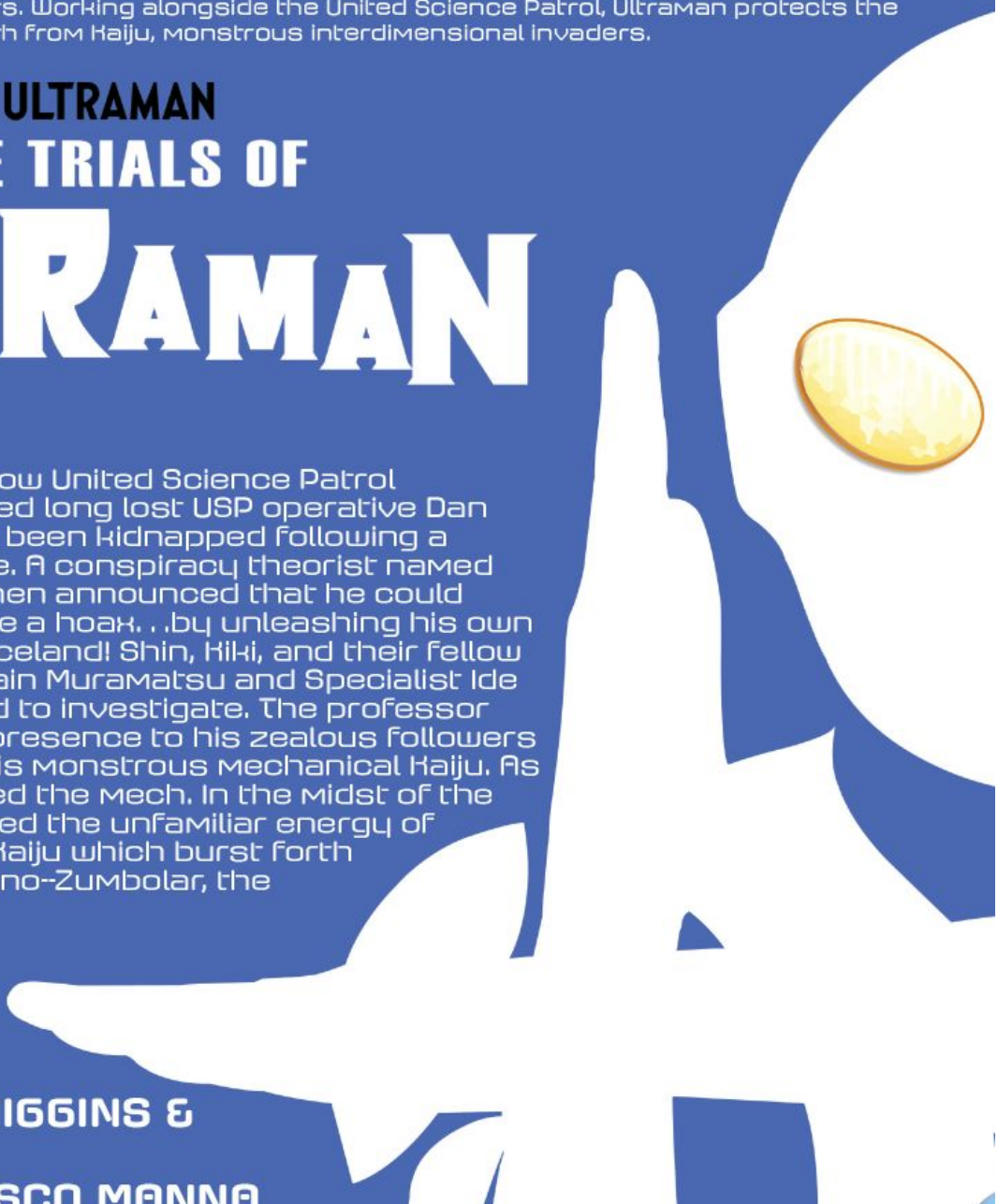
Shin Hayata merged with the alien being known as Ultra to become Ultraman! Using the Beta Capsule, Shin can utilize Ultraman's superhuman strength, flight and energy rays-but only for three-minute increments. Working alongside the United Science Patrol, Ultraman protects the Earth from Kaiju, monstrous interdimensional invaders.

ULTRAMAN
THE TRIALS OF ULTRAMAN



Shin Hayata and fellow United Science Patrol cadet Kiki Fuji rescued long lost USP operative Dan Moroboshi, who had been kidnapped following a mysterious absence. A conspiracy theorist named Professor Nikaido then announced that he could prove that Kaiju were a hoax. . .by unleashing his own mechanical Kaiju in Iceland! Shin, Kiki, and their fellow USP comrades Captain Muramatsu and Specialist Ide all headed to Iceland to investigate. The professor revealed the USP's presence to his zealous followers and also released his monstrous mechanical Kaiju. As Ultraman, Shin battled the mech. In the midst of the fight, Ultraman sensed the unfamiliar energy of an organic second Kaiju which burst forth from a nearby volcano--Zumbolar, the Walking Inferno!

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ULTRAMAN Created by Tsuburaya Productions and Presented by Marvel Comics.

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STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY: 68%
WARNING: PRIMARY GENERATOR DAMAGED.
REROUTING POWER FROM FAILL. ARTICULATION
AND AQUATIC PROPULSION SYSTEMS.
PRIMARY BEAM WEAPON: CHARGING. PLEASE WAIT.
KRAK
KRAK
J.A.D.F PROTOTYPE 03
PILOT: H. HAKAJIMA
CODENAME: JIRAHS
AHHHAHAHA! YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT!
YOU HEAR ME, USP?! YOUR FAKE KAIJU HAS NOTHING ON OUR JIRAHS! NOTHING!

WE WILL ATTEMPT. HOWEVER. THE SITUATION ?NNNGG? IS CHALLENGING.
GCAHH!
AGH!
OKAY, COME ON, KIKI...THINK... WHAT DO WE DO... WHAT DO WE... KNOW...?

ULTRAMAN?
SPECIALIST IDE HERE AGAIN. WE MAY HAVE BEEN LABORING UNDER SOME...*FALSE ASSUMPTIONS.*
YOU SEE. MY SCANS ARE PROVIDING ME WITH SOME NEW INFORMATION ABOUT JIRAHS--PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE IT HAS THUS FAR SUSTAINED...?
IDE. WHAT OF THE ROBOT?
GCAHHHHHH!!
WELL, SEE, THAT'S EXACTLY THE FALSE ASSUMPTION I WAS TALKING ABOUT. THIS ONE IS *NOT* A ROBOT--IT'S A *MECHA!*
WHICH IS NOT AN ACADEMIC DISTINCTION--THERE IS A HUMAN PILOT IN THERE! YOU NEED TO SAVE THEM BEFORE ZUMBOLAR TEARS JIRAHS APART!

SPECIALIST IDE, CAN YOU I.D. THIS KAIJU? IF THE USP CAUGHT HIM BEFORE, WE'LL HAVE SOMETHING ON HIM!
ZUMBOLAR
WE'RE TWO PEAS IN A BRIGHT ORANGE POD, CADET!
UNFORTUNATELY, IT SEEMS THAT PRIOR TO HIS TIME IN THE KAIJU VAULT, ZUMBOLAR HERE HAD BEEN STALKING THE 24-HOUR WINTER "NIGHTS" OF ICELAND FOR OVER ONE THOUSAND YEARS.
IT'S WIDELY BELIEVED HE EMERGED FROM THE NEGATIVE ENERGY THAT RESULTED WHEN ICELAND'S FIRST SETTLERS CHOPPED DOWN ALMOST EVERY SINGLE TREE ON THE ISLAND TO MAKE AGRICULTURE EASIER.
AS NICE AS IT WOULD BE TO REFOREST ALL OF ICELAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS BATTLE, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY.
TECHNOLOGY...
SHIN! THE JIRAHS MECHA! TAKE IT OUT FIRST!

THE WEAKER OPPONENT FIRST? IS THIS WISE?
THE PEOPLE WHO RAZED ZUMBOLAR'S FORESTS--
--THEY USED *TECHNOLOGY* TO DO IT. PRIMITIVE, YES, BUT STILL--SOMETHING *MAN-MADE.* AND NOW WHAT DO YOU THINK IT SEES WHEN IT LOOKS AT ALL *THIS?*
HM. INTRIGUING, KIKI FUJI. WE SHALL PURSUE.
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'LL MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE? THE THING'S PISSED OFF ANYWAY.
HEY, AT THIS POINT, ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HELP... WE *GO* FOR IT.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND.
THIS IS NOT AGGRESSION...
...BUT CALCULATION.

OH, IT'S LIKE THAT, HUH? FINE, THEN--
--HAVE IT YOUR WAY!
KAWWW
KEW

YOU--YOU DESTROYED MY COCKPIT!
FOR SAFETY--BE STILL.
NOW. PROCEED TO SAFER GROUND.
KRSSSSHHH

ZUMBOLAR, YOUR FIGHT HAS ENDED.
GRGH GRRMMM
ARE YOU PROUD OF YOURSELF?!
DESTROYING MY INCREDIBLE WORK?
AND FOR WHAT?!
JUST TO KEEP UP THIS RIDICULOUS RUSE?
KRZTT

DEET DEET DEET
SHIN, THE CORE! IT'S DOING THE SAME THING THE ONE IN AUCKLAND DID! BUT THIS IS EIGHT TIMES ITS SIZE--
YES. IT CANNOT REMAIN.
DEET DEET DEET

WHOOSH
DEET DEET
WHOOM
EVEN AFTER ALL THIS, WHY WON'T YOU ACCEPT THE TRUTH?
BECAUSE IT'S *NOT* THE TRUTH.

--THE USP'S FAULT--
--THEY THINK THEY FOOLED US, BUT THEY DIDN'T--
--CREATED IN SOME OTHER WAY. BIOENGINEERING, PERHAPS. GENE SPLICING.
BUT YOU *SAW* THAT THING ATTACK ULTRAMAN--IT *CLEARLY* WASN'T UNDER OUR CONTROL!
IT'S OKAY, CADET. IT'S OKAY.

HOW ARE YOU DOING, SHIN?
HONESTLY... I DON'T KNOW.
DO YOU THINK WE HAVE A CHANCE HERE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE PEOPLE BACK THERE...THEY SAW THE KAIJU. THE REAL KAIJU. THEY SAW THE TRUTH!
BUT THEY STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT.
YEAH. THAT'S... YEAH. I DON'T KNOW.
I KEEP THINKING ABOUT WHAT THE ULTRA SAID--THAT TO SAVE OURSELVES FROM KAIJU, WE NEED TO SHOW THE WORLD A BETTER WAY. BUT HOW CAN WE SHOW THEM WHEN THEY REFUSE TO EVEN LOOK?
THIS WAS ALWAYS GOING TO TAKE TIME.

IT'S SCARY.
REALLY QUITE TERRIFYING, YES.
THINK ABOUT HOW YOU WOULD FEEL IF EVERYTHING YOU KNEW, EVERYTHING YOU BELIEVED, TURNED OUT TO BE ALL WRONG? HOW DO YOU EVEN START TO PROCESS THAT?
WE'RE ALL JUST DOING OUR BEST. TRYING TO GET THROUGH DAY-BY-DAY. AND FOR A LARGE PORTION OF PEOPLE...RIGHT NOW, AT LEAST...
...THAT REQUIRES ***NOT*** BELIEVING IN THE EXISTENCE OF GIANT, HORRIFIC AND ***GENUINELY MALICIOUS*** MONSTERS WHO WANT TO KILL THEM.
EVERYONE'S JUST TRYING TO STAY AFLOAT...
...AND I JUST PULLED THE LIFE RAFTS OUT FROM UNDER THEM.
I KNOW IT'S HARD, BUT WE JUST NEED TO BE PATIENT. WE CHANGED THE WORLD OVERNIGHT.
YOU CAN'T EXPECT EVERYONE TO LIKE IT. IN TIME, SOME PEOPLE WILL JOIN US. OTHERS...NEVER WILL. BUT WE CAN'T LET THAT STOP US. WE NEED TO KEEP FIGHTING ALL THE SAME.
YEAH. THANKS, CAPTAIN MURAMATSU.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

SO, WHAT, YOU'VE GOT BIG BROTHER INTERCEPTING MY EMAILS NOW?
HELLO TO YOU TOO, DAD.
LOOK, I KNOW ALL OF THIS, THE KAIJU-- IT'S A SCARY--
I'M NOT SCARED OF KAIJU. I'M SCARED OF ULTRAMAN. IT WAS BAD WHEN WE WERE TOLD NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT THIS "HERO"...
...BUT IT'S MUCH, MUCH WORSE KNOWING THAT SOME 20-YEAR-OLD KID WITH NO EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN HANDED SUCH IMMENSE POWER.
BUT IT'S NOT ABOUT A 20-YEAR-OLD, IS IT? IT'S ABOUT ME. IT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T THINK I CAN BE TRUSTED--
TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE? NO. YOU ABSOLUTELY CAN'T. WE KNOW THIS FROM EXPERIENCE.
OKAY, FINE. YOU WANT TO HASH THIS OUT NOW?
...IT'S LATE. TIME FOR YOU TO GO.
NO. NO MORE OF THIS.

I ENCOURAGED JIRO TO COME WITH ME THAT NIGHT. OKAY? I DID THAT, I ADMIT THAT I DID IT AND I...I ADMIT THAT I *SHOULDN'T* HAVE...
BUT YOU WEREN'T... LOOK, THE THREE OF US NEVER WENT ANYWHERE. WE NEVER *DID* ANYTHING. JIRO AND I WERE *KIDS*, DAD, AND... I KNOW YOU WERE HURT AFTER MOM LEFT, BUT... SO WERE WE.
YOU WITHDREW INTO YOUR SHELL AND WE HAD TO JUST...FIGURE IT OUT. *I* HAD TO RAISE HIM. SO, YES, WE SNUCK OUT, AND HE...
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. I COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN. I WAS *THIRTEEN*, DAD.
BUT YOU BLAME ME. WHICH IS FINE. *I* STILL BLAME ME A LOT OF THE TIME. AND THAT...
IT'S JUST SOMETHING I HAVE TO LIVE WITH. NO MATTER WHAT ELSE I DO, I'LL *ALWAYS* HAVE TO LIVE WITH THAT.
BUT I'M DONE WITH LETTING YOUR JUDGMENT CONTROL ME. I'M GOING TO KEEP TRYING TO REDEEM MYSELF, BUT NOT FOR YOU.
YOU DO WHAT YOU WANT. IF THAT MEANS TELLING PEOPLE THAT I'M ULTRAMAN, FINE.
I DON'T THINK YOU WILL, THOUGH.
BECAUSE IF PEOPLE KNOW MY SECRET, MY LIFE WILL BE IN VERY REAL DANGER. AND I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE ME, I KNOW YOU DON'T TRUST ME, BUT...
...I STILL LOVE YOU, DAD, AND I SUSPECT YOU MIGHT FEEL THE SAME WAY, DEEP DOWN.
BUT EVEN IF YOU DON'T, I DON'T THINK YOU CAN AFFORD TO LOSE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF YOUR FAMILY.
"YOU DID WELL, SHIN HAYATA."

IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT.
I KNOW.
IF I MAY INQUIRE ABOUT SOMETHING...
SURE, YEAH.
DURING THE RECONCILIATION PROCESS, AS PART OF OUR MERGER, YOU OPENED YOURSELF TO ME, AND I TO YOU.
YOU SHOWED ME WHO YOU ARE AND WHO YOU HAVE BEEN. BUT YOU DID NOT SHOW ME ANYTHING OF YOUR BROTHER.
ALL OF THAT...IT'S NOT SOMETHING I'M PROUD OF. OR LIKE TO THINK ABOUT.
IF I'M BEING TOTALLY HONEST--DEEP DOWN, I THINK I WAS PROBABLY TOO AFRAID TO SHOW YOU.
AFRAID YOU WOULD THINK I WASN'T WORTHY OF THIS OPPORTUNITY.
HAVING EXPERIENCED TRAUMA IS NOT A SIGN OF WEAKNESS. CONFRONTING PAIN FROM YOUR PAST IS NEVER PLEASANT, BUT ULTIMATELY, TO HEAL...IT *IS* NECESSARY.
AS SOMEONE WHO HAS LOST A BROTHER...I WISH YOU TO KNOW THAT, WHILE THE PAIN IS ENDURING, YOU NO LONGER NEED TO FACE IT ALONE.
THANK YOU.
HEY, SHIN.

I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, BUT DIRECTOR ICHINOTANI SAID I COULD FIND YOU HERE...
IT'S REALLY NO PROBLEM, DAN. I WAS ACTUALLY JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW MUCH BETTER SO MANY THINGS ARE WHEN THEY'RE SHARED.
THAT'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT A LOT TOO, ACTUALLY...
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
NO. I NEED TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU, SHIN.
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR...
NO, NO, I DO, I'M SORRY-- I PROMISE IF THERE WAS ANY OTHER WAY, I WOULDN'T...
WOULDN'T WHAT?
79%
72%
61%

DRAIN THE ULTRA'S ESSENCE FROM YOU.
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE MYSTERY OF ULTRASEVEN! COMING IN 2022!

ZONE